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swine unit

for dry lot feeding

COOPERATIVE FARM BUILDING
PLAN No. 5873
(2-SHEETS)
PLAN EXCHANGE

USDA
MAY 25 1961
U.S. DEPT. OF AGR.
BELTSVILLE BRANCH

CUTAWAY PERSPECTIVE

This economical and versatile swine unit may be expanded in multiples of 10 feet. The design adapts the simplicity of proven methods of hog-house construction to modern concepts of dry-lot feeding.

Locate the unit on a well-drained site, shielded from winter winds with an evergreen windbreak but open to the summer breezes. The unit should be at least 200 yards from the dwelling on the leeward side because even the best managed hogs on dry lot produce odors. Orient the outside pens to the south or southeast, and provide a short sewage line to facilitate free-flow of sewage.

Environmental control for both winter and summer is simple. When closed, the awnings and feeders form a barrier against winter wind and snow. The interior pens have solid plywood gates and canvas draft breakers to form a snug bedded area. The first two pens are equipped with hinged hover boards to further protect the nested pigs. In summer, back vents at the shed eave are opened, the white awning doors are raised for shade, and the breeze freely passes through the wire pens and beneath the shed roof. In warmer climates additional shade, sprays, or wallows may benefit the heavier hogs.

For maximum flexibility install gate hinges and roughed-in plumbing for the water troughs at 10-foot intervals. If the unit is used for breeding stock, make the panels and gates 4 feet tall instead of 3.

For a fattening unit, 7 gates and 8 waterers are suggested for the maximum recommended length of 120 feet. With provision for gates and waters at 10-foot intervals, the pens may easily be rearranged for the grower who buys shoats for feeding, or for handling breeding stock. Make the fence in front of the outside pens 4 feet high to fit any operation.

Complete working drawings may be obtained through your county agent or from the Extension agricultural engineer at most State agricultural colleges. There is usually a small charge.

ORDER PLAN NO. 5873. SWINE UNIT FOR DRY LOT FEEDING

If working drawings of this plan are not available in your State, write to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering Research Division, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. The U.S. Department of Agriculture does not distribute working drawings, but will direct you to a State that does distribute them.

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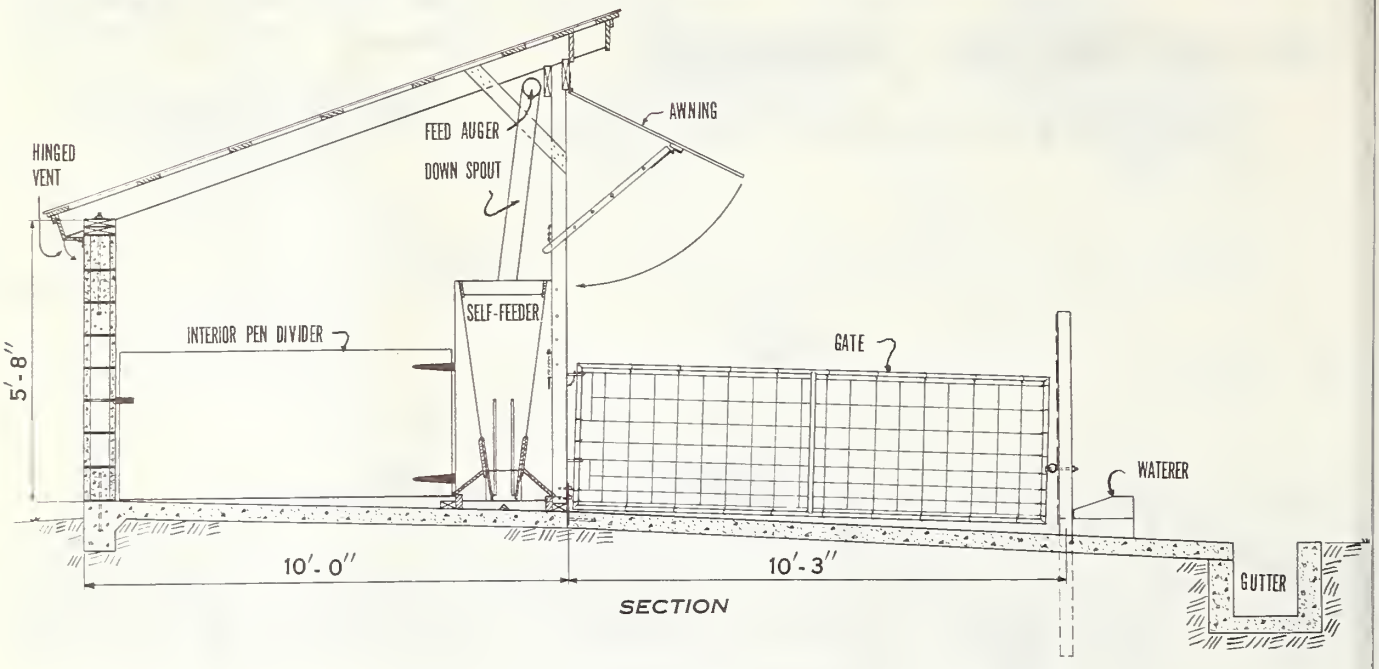
construction details



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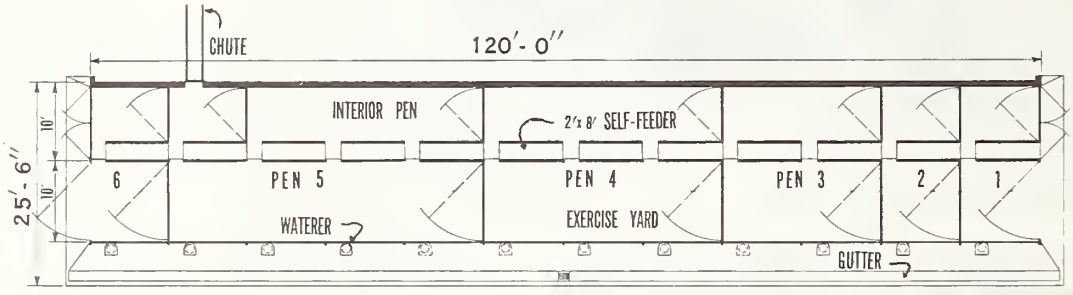

PLAN

Forty-eight pigs from a farrowing and nursery house are moved every 4 weeks to the next larger-sized pen. If they are 5 weeks old when started in the first pen on the right end of the plan, they should have optimum weight of 190 to 200 pounds when they finish in the fifth pen at an age of 24 to 27 weeks. Those that are finished for market may be shipped through the chute in the rear of the finishing pen, and the slow gainers are then moved to the sixth pen for additional feeding. Under this plan the unit will accommodate about 600 hogs per year.

Use a tractor-mounted blade to clean the pens. To clean the inside, pen the hogs outside by dropping the 2-foot plywood gates; lift the hinged hover in the two small pig pens and open all of the inside gates to give a clear drive through the interior. Use the same procedure for cleaning outside pens. Outside pens may be flushed with high pressure water. The drainage gutter will work best if a plug is placed in the drain. After hosing the floor, remove the plug and stir the waste in the gutter as the drainage system flushes.

Feed hoppers are secured with four screws, which can be removed to facilitate cleaning of the feeders. The feeders can be filled either with an auger equipped with shut-off downspouts or with a self-unloading wagon. If a wagon is used, the feeding and cleaning should both be done when the outside pens are cleared of hogs. The feeders hold 32 bushels each, a supply sufficient for a week to 10 days. In planning the feeding system, consideration should be given to the advantages to be gained from feeding a higher protein ration to the smaller pigs than to the hogs in pens 4 and 5.

When pigs are farrowed on the farm where they are fattened, the farrowing and nursery should be isolated from the fattening unit to prevent the spread of disease. For continuous operation of the unit, two farrowing houses are needed to supply pigs at 4-week intervals. After each farrowing, the farrowing pens should be thoroughly disinfected. Farrowing units should be left empty for a 2-week interval at least four times each year. However, this unit is also well adapted to fattening spring and fall litters if that system of management is preferred.

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